
Introduction

The New Arborist of the Year (NAOTY) competition began in 2013 with the first event held in Queenstown. The competition was developed to promote new arborists in the industry. It allows them to take part in an event that challenges them when they are matched with individuals of similar experience.

Now sponsored by Hansa Chippers and Treehub, with some great prizes from Husqvarna, this competition provides a fantastic platform for new arborists in the industry.

The opportunities to network, upskill and gain recognition with industry leaders will be sure to inspire any new arborist to choose this innovative and dynamic career.

Competition Overview

The competition itself is run in two parts; the regional events and the national finals.

The regional NAOTY competitions are held in conjunction with the regional Tree Climbing Competitions (TCCs).

The two regional NAOTY winners not only take-home prizes but have the opportunity to attend the Annual Arboriculture Conference and the National TCC event. A place is reserved for them to compete in the finals for the New Arborist of the Year Award.

“My most memorable moment is accepting the award at the conference dinner.”

Regional Competitions

The top two qualifiers from each of the four regional competitions qualify for the national event. Their prize includes travel to, and accommodation at, the national event held at various locations throughout the country.

The four regional events cover:

Auckland
Waikato/ Bay of Plenty
Wellington
South Island

“I met a whole bunch of amazing tree climbers and I took to it immediately.”

The competitors' scores from a multiple-choice theory test and their Work Climb score are combined to give their overall score. (Pre-registration is required for the Regional TCC in order for competitors to compete in the Work Climb).

National Competition

The national competition is held in conjunction with the National Tree Climbing Competition (NTCC) and the arboriculture industry's annual conference and trade show.

The top eight regional New Arborist qualifiers from throughout the country are brought together to compete for the National New Arborist of the Year title. The overall winner is presented with a trophy and prizes at the conference dinner.

Because the national competitions are held over two days, this allows the competitors to attend conference seminars, visit the trade show and also enjoy the spectacle of the country's top tree climbers competing for national honours and the opportunity to represent New Zealand at the International Tree Climbing Competition (ITCC).

“Handshakes and job offers were thrust at me from all directions.”

The NAOTY competition itself consists of five events which all involve elements of professional tree climbing and tree work.

The competitors will be judged on all aspects of arboricultural work along with instructional elements to help develop their skills and knowledge.

The five events are outlined below and the competitor with the highest overall score will take home the New Arborist of the Year trophy.

Tree ID Test – This test consists of 30 tree samples ranging from foliage, fruit, cones and dried specimens. It requires the finalists to correctly identify and name the tree samples.

Knots Test – Each competitor will be required to tie and apply a range of knots commonly used in arboriculture.

Quick-Fire Quiz – Facing off against each other, the finalists demonstrate their knowledge over 60 industry-related questions.

Aerial Rescue – Using the format of the NTCC, the finalists will each preform an aerial tree rescue and showcase their skills in the tree.

Work Site Hazard Assessment – The competitors will need to accurately assess a simulated tree work environment.

Rules and Conditions

The New Arborist of the Year competition is designed to test competitors of similar experience.

Therefore, a limit of three years' experience within the arboricultural industry is the only entry requirement, (other than TCC guidelines).

Whether it's your first day at tech or your first day on the job as an apprentice – you now qualify to enter.

The three-year qualifying period ends at the competitor's qualifying regional competition.

Competitors can only qualify for the finals event at their own regional TCC. However, all climbers are welcome to compete at other TCC events.

Quick-Fire Quiz Rules

There are 60 Questions.

You need to give the most correct answer.

Only answer when acknowledged by the judge.

You must start your answer within two seconds of being acknowledged. A point will be deducted for an incorrect answer, and the question will then be put back just once to the remaining contestants.

Knots Test Rules

Each competitor is required to correctly tie and apply a series of knots that are regularly used in tree work.

Each knot must be approved by the judge before continuing. A knot may be passed on and retried after all other knots have been attempted.

Previous Winners and Gallery

2013 – Stephen Griffiths, *Hamilton City Council*

2014 – Scott Geddes, *Treescape*

2015 – Craig Lamb, *Wintec*

2016 – Josh Symes, *Wellington City Council*

2017 – Joshua Talsma, *Tree Menders Ltd*

2018 - Yoan Willman, *Tree Menders Ltd*

The next few pages have some helpful information and score sheets that you might find useful on your journey to becoming the next New Arborist of the Year.

New Arborist of the Year Competition National Hazard Assessment Form